

Message Text

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15
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /088 W
----- 049521

R 310745Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5590
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USUN NEW YORK 0606

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0736

FOR AF/C AMBASSADOR MARK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PFOR, SK, BY

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREAN APPROACH TO BURUNDI

REF: STATE 189061 (NOTAL)

1. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR CLAUDE RUELLE HAS RECEIVED FROM HIS HOME OFFICE A REQUEST FOR HIS OPINION CONCERNING THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT'S RECEPTIVITY TO AN APPROACH BY THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT. THE SOUTH KOREA EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS HAS ASKED FOR THE BELGIAN FOREIGN OFFICE'S ADVICE ON THIS MATTER. THE AMBASSADOR'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT WITHOUT APPROACHING PRESIDENT MICOMBERO OR OTHER BURUNDI OFFICIALS DIRECTLY ON THE QUESTION.

2. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR RUELLE'S REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION WE HAD ON THIS SUBJECT, I BRIEFED HIM ON YOUR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT MICOMBERO AND FOREIGN MINISTER BWAKIRA AND YOUR RECENT TALK WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ENCOURAGING THEM TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO COURT BURUNDI TO COUNTER THE INFLUENCE OF THE NORTH KOREANS AND TO ENCOURAGE, IF POSSIBLE, GREATER BURUNDIAN NEUTRALITY
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ON THE KOREAN QUESTION (REFTEL). AMBASSADOR RUELLE THOUGHT

BRUSSELS MIGHT WELL BE A FAVORABLE SPOT FOR THE SOUTH KOREANS TO MAKE THE INTIAL CONTACT WITH THE BURUNDI GOVERNMENT. (THE BRUSSELS LOCATION FOR STARTING TALKS WOULD AVOID PUTTING THE BURUNDIANS IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION OF HAVING TO FACE A CERTAIN NEGATIVE NORTH KOREAN REACTION TO THE VISIT OF A SOUTH KOREAN OFFICIAL TO BUJUMBURA.) HE SAID THE NEWLY APPOINTED BURUNDI AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM, DOMINIQUE SHIRAMANGA, PLANNED TO ARRIVE IN BRUSSELS BY MID-SEPTEMBER.

3. AMBASSADOR RUELE IS INFORMING HIS FOREIGN OFFICE OF THE ABOVE BACKGROUND AND OF YOUR PLANNED CONSULTATION STOP SOON IN BRUSSELS IN CASE THEY WISH TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN GREATER DETAIL WITH YOU.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUJUMB00736
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-1320
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976085/aaaaaddx.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 189061
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH KOREAN APPROACH TO BURUNDI
TAGS: PFOR, KS, BY, KN, BE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006